

# Lingua Villosa Nigra

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**KEY WORDS:** lingua nigra, infection

IMAJ 2017; 19: 131

**A** 106 year old woman was admitted to our department with a urinary tract infection. She also complained that she had experienced difficulty swallowing in the previous few days. She had lost her own teeth decades earlier, but she was independent, walking at home with assistance using canes, and she was comprehensive, vivid, thin but without cachexia. Physical examination revealed a black symmetric discoloration of the tongue that looked spongy [Figure 1]. No adenopathy, hepatosplenomegaly or any other clinical abnormalities were detected. The throat culture was positive for *Candida albicans*, *Candida krusei*, and *Staphylococcus saprophyticus*. She was treated with local fluconazole and

**Figure 1.** Before treatment



**Figure 2.** After treatment



the black coloration of the tongue disappeared within 4 days [Figure 2].

The diagnosis of black hairy tongue (lingua villosa nigra) is usually associated with chromogenic organisms like *Candida albicans* and previous use of antibiotics or bismuth. The mechanism is related to proliferation of filiform papillae of the tongue that is stained with porphyrin-producing chromogenic bacteria or yeast. In our case the elderly patient was not taking any antibiotics or bismuth salts, but had poor oral hygiene and did not have dentures.

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**“Quite frankly I talk about the fact that I’m a feminist as often as I can, and every time I do it gets huge reaction and media reacts and the Twitterverse explodes and things like that, because here I am saying I’m a feminist. I will keep saying that until there is no more reaction to that when I say it, because that’s where we want to get to”**

Justin Trudeau (born 1971), Prime Minister of Canada and son of the former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau